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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the Application of: **Tadashi WATANABE et al.**

Group Art Unit: **2818**

Application Number: **10/823,729**

Examiner: **David Vu**

Filed: **April 14, 2004**

Confirmation Number: **5344**

For: **SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE FABRICATION METHOD**

Attorney Docket Number: **042341**  
Customer Number: **38834**

**RESPONSE**

**MAIL STOP AF**

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

May 1, 2006

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated January 30, 2006, Applicants submit the following remarks.

**Remarks/Arguments begin on page 2 of this paper.**